

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.

Incidentally, this use of the public airwaves to favor one candidate over another is highly outrageous. The 2004 campaign with the tactics utilized by both sides has been an incredible stain on the principles established long ago by our forefathers. If the FCC's regulatory authority is truly for the purpose of benefitting American citizens, it will put a prompt halt to Sinclair's blatant disregard of the principles on which the media is required to operate. No radio or television station or series of stations should in any way attempt to subtly or not so subtly influence our local or national elections.